

# Board of County Commissioners Leon County, Florida

## Policy No. 98-27

Title: Canopy Road Tree Protection

Date Adopted: October 13, 1998

Effective Date: October 13, 1998

Reference: Comprehensive Plan Conservation Objectives 3.4; Related Policies 1.3.2.; 3.4.1-3.4.9; Transportation Policy 1.1.7; Environmental Overlay Pages I-13-16. Environmental Management Act, Article VII, Division 4 and Division 5, Section 10-314

Policy Superseded: Policy No. 90-1, Canopy Road Tree Protection, adopted July 31, 1990

It shall be the policy of the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, that Policy No. 90-1, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on July 31, 1990, is hereby repealed and superseded, and a new policy is hereby adopted in its place, to wit:

It shall be the policy of the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, that the following guidelines shall be applied during staff review of Canopy Road developments.

### A. **Staff Review of Subdivisions, DRI's, PUD's and Site Plans**

The applicant will be required to flag the proposed entrances at the time of Environmental Impact Analysis. Staff will estimate the potential impact of the proposed access and the availability of suitable alternatives. Review criteria are as follows.

#### 1. **General Provisions:**

- a. No property access from a canopy road may be permitted where suitable alternative access is available.
- b. Access will be limited to and from canopy roads, to the essential minimum.
- c. Access will be coordinated with adjacent property owners to a single entry, where possible.
- d. Width of access points will be minimized.

#### 2. **Tree Protection:**

- a. quality of canopy.
- b. number and size of trees.
- c. quality of trees.
- d. availability of alternative roads.
- e. impact of topographic changes required at point-of-access.
- f. possibility of using existing access points, and
- g. potential for joining with other property owners to share access points.

3. **Traffic Safety:**

- a. vertical and horizontal alignment of the canopy road.
- b. tree locations and size.
- c. volume of traffic to and from development.
- d. potential development adjacent to connection.
- e. potential improvement to the canopy road to provide auxiliary lanes (left-turn and deceleration/acceleration).
- f. any access with a greater than 3000 A.D.T. would need a turn lane.
- g. height of banks and connection profile. The speed of traffic and road alignment will determine minimal sight distance.

B. **Staff Review of Canopy Road Tree Removal Permits:**

1. Staff will consider the strict application of the above criteria and will also evaluate:
  - a. access requests specified by the City or County to provide reasonable, minimum level of service; for example, a modified canopy road standard might be requiring only three (3) lanes when traffic equals or exceeds 3000 A.D.T.
  - b. the location of water, sewer and other utilities and sidewalks and the ability to minimize impact on tree canopy through appropriate design, and
  - c. avoidance of medians, unless designed to complement and enhance existing canopy.
2. There is to be no removal of understory vegetation (underbrushing) in canopy road tree protection zones, in order to provide protection of understory and its effect on the appearance of canopy roads. This policy is not intended to preclude continuation of pre-existing understory maintenance practices in the canopy road zone, maintenance of essential road and ditch conditions, and authorization of landscaping to enhance natural vegetative understory.

- C. Tree Removal application requirements are defined by Leon County Code of Laws, Chapter 10, Article VII, Section 10-314 (b).